

## CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

**HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 1995*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fifth annual Day of the African Child, which commemorates the massacre of south African students in Soweto on this date in 1976.

These young students spoke out against apartheid, questioning the system that denied them equality. Who knew that their short lives would inspire their countrymen to alter the course of history in the years to come?

This tragic event was a critical moment in Africa's transition from crisis to hope. The commemoration of this day should remind us that the children of Africa are the true victims of that continent's many tragedies, but also that they will help lead Africa to a brighter future.

Although South Africa is successfully adjusting to its new democracy, other African nations continue to struggle. The horrible suffering in Rwanda has had a devastating impact on its children, with hundreds of thousands dead or homeless as a result of the senseless killing. We must work to prevent a repeat of this catastrophe.

I applaud the many dedicated volunteers and organizations who have worked tirelessly for the children of Africa. I believe Africa—a continent of the world's oldest civilizations and yet home to some of the youngest political states—will work to ensure a brighter future for its children and share the fruits of its hard work with those who nurture that goal today.

## TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BLADEN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 1995*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Barbara Bladen, who retired from the San Mateo Times on December 11, 1994, after 39 years as an exemplary critic and writer. Her instinct throughout the years has led to a long and distinguished career in the San Francisco Bay area. In reading her reviews I have always admired her insight and eloquence. She has devoted the past 39 years to opening the door to the world of performing arts to many bay area residents.

Barbara, who is well-versed in the performing arts, had planned to make her career as a participant of the arts rather than as critic of them. She is schooled in tap, ballet, classical and jazz piano, modeling, and acting. She had planned to study acting in New York when she married the late painter-sculptor Ronald Bladen. After their move to San Carlos, she began acting locally with the Hillbarn Theater.

Shortly thereafter, she began her long and distinguished career with the San Mateo Times. She started off as the newspaper's librarian and worked her way up to arts critic, for which she was paid \$7.50 for each review. From there she moved into the women's de-

partment, and began writing a daily "Lively Arts" column. As a daily columnist, Barbara Bladen found her niche reviewing theater, opera, dance, music, and film. Although it was difficult in the beginning, she continued to strive on and overcome all hurdles to become a revered critic.

Known as one to put her interviewees at ease, Barbara was successful in capturing many celebrity interviews. She made use of her theatrical background interviewing Bette Davis, Clark Gable, Judy Garland, Jimmy Stewart, Omar Shariff, Peter O'Toole, Paul Newman, Lauren Bascall, Sophia Lauren, Lucille Ball, Jody Foster, and Kevin Costner to name a few. Not only did she dress and act accordingly for each star—in full skirts and flamboyant jewelry with a southern twang for country stars, in black leather and raw language for rock stars—she knew exactly what to ask and how to ask it. Barbara traveled extensively throughout her career, and reviewed the many different works she saw and heard from all over the world. She has given the bay area community a lifetime of her performing arts expertise.

Her forth-right manner and her charismatic style has been a great contribution to the arts arena in the bay area, and to the entire community. Mr. Speaker, Barbara Bladen's 39 years of dedication and commitment to sharing new works and discovering new talents has enlightened the entire San Francisco Bay area. On this day, when we celebrate her retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barbara Bladen for her accomplishments and outstanding career.

## TRIBUTE TO LESLIE H. "LES" MORGAN

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 1995*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Leslie H. "Les" Morgan on the occasion of his upcoming retirement from the city of Los Angeles after 30 years of outstanding service. In recognition of his dedication to the citizens of Los Angeles, Mr. Morgan will be honored at an appreciation dinner on July 20, 1995. It is a pleasure to share with my colleagues just a few of his many accomplishments.

Born in Arkansas on December 8, 1935, Mr. Morgan spent his formative years in Little Rock. After graduating from Dunbar High School, Les moved to California where he studied real estate and accounting at Compton College. Mr. Morgan completed his studies in real estate at East Los Angeles and Harbor City Colleges. After 19 years of continued education and experience in the field, he became a licensed real estate broker in the states of California and Nevada.

From 1965 to 1985, Mr. Morgan worked for the city of Los Angeles in a number of positions. In 1987, he became a real estate trainee in the general services department and by 1991 was advanced to real estate officer.

Mr. Morgan is an accomplished entrepreneur. He is a hair stylist for Morgan's Hair Styles, insurance broker, notary public, and owner of Morgan's Real Estate. When is not hard at work, Les enjoys Jazz, cooking, and travel.

Les has contributed his talents to the community through his active participation in community organizations such as the Western Association of Community Health Centers and the National Association of Community Health Centers. He served as treasurer of the Watts Health Foundation, as well as chairman of the organization's board of directors from 1972 to 1978. Dedicated to community health, he played an integral role in the negotiations and completion of the \$7 million health center in 1978.

In appreciation of his service and dedication to the community, Les has received several awards and commendations. He is the recipient of certificates of appreciation bestowed by the Crippled Children's Society for his volunteer efforts and by the Volunteer's Auxiliary of the Watts Foundation for his contributions to the community. He was listed in "Men of Achievement," as well as the first edition of "Who's Who Among Black Americans." He has also been recognized for his dedication to public health by both the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

A devoted father of four sons, Gerry, Claude, Frederick, and Vincent, Les was married to Jewel Hall for 35 years. Jewel passed away in 1991, and he has since married the former Sandra Garrett. After Les retires, he looks forward to spending time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mr. Leslie H. Morgan on his many years of dedicated service to the city of Los Angeles. It is a pleasure to join his family, friends, and colleagues in recognizing his distinguished career and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

## DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 1995*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note that this day, the 16th day of June, has been declared the "Day of the African Child" by the Organization of African Unity.

Founded in memory of the uprising and massacre of school children in Soweto, South Africa, it is a day that we pause to remember the plight of children all over Africa, and what we as citizens and legislators can do to create a better environment for them. It is a day that provides us with a forum to celebrate the achievements Africa has attained in meeting the needs of its children, and provides us with the opportunity to renew our commitment to providing greater resources to aid in this struggle.

In light of the recent defeat of the Hastings amendment to the foreign aid reauthorization bill regarding the restoration of the \$802 million level for the Development Fund for Africa, we need to remind ourselves of the impact of this important part of our foreign aid bill that provided funds to help the malnourished, the illiterate and impoverished.

Through foreign aid provided by America and other countries:

The death rate of children under five has been halved since 1960.